NIAGARA COLLEGE
of Applied Arts and Technology
WELLAND CAMPUS
LEARNING
RESOURCE CENTRE

Niagara News

VOL. 24 NO. 7 FREE Friday, Jan 14, 1994

INFORMING NIAGARA COLLEGE

Food for Friends a success for second year in a row

See page 5

Bargains to be found for students

Your guide to savings.

Knights continue the battle

Coach Todd Stevens and the '93-'94 Niagara Knights Men's basketball team prepare to go into battle hoping to end a five game losing streak. The Knights play their next home game at the Welland campus against Humber College Jan. 20 at 7:30 p.m..

Photo by Leann McHutchion

Sorensen quits

By GREG FURMINGER
Staff Writer

Student Administrative Council president Kristen Sorensen resigned effective Jan. 1 leaving executive vice-president Cris Margeson to head the council.

"I want to devote more time to studies," Sorensen said. "I was an honor student but my marks dropped drastically."

There was speculation that Sorensen had been asked to resign by council members.

KRISTEN SORENSEN

SAC liaison Lou DiMattio summed up Sorensen's departure as "a lack of communication and consensus that Kristen was acting independently and found herself involved to such an extent that upon reassessing her educational goals she submitted her resignation."

DiMattio said balancing SAC commitments and school can be difficult. Sometimes members put the rest of the student body ahead of their own goals, she said.

Sorensen's resignation is the second this academic year. Brad Billard resigned from position of vice-president social Nov. 1.

"SAC is like a full-time job," said Sorensen, noting that she also has a full timetable and holds down a waitressing job at M.T. Bellies. Sorensen's SAC responsibilities included prep time, several committees' meetings, appearances at SAC functions and reading numerous letters from government agencies and interest groups.

However hectic the job may have been at times, Sorensen stated, "I really enjoyed my time on SAC. I'm going to miss it."

"It's not going to be easy to fill her shoes," said Margeson, who added he will be monitoring himself in an effort to make sure his grades are maintained while performing duties as new SAC president.

Margeson's previous position remains open. A decision is expected to be made by today regarding its occupancy.

College on the chopping block

By ANDREA SNIDER
Staff Writer

Niagara College will be on the receiving end of at least $340,000 in funding cuts for the 1994-1995 school years.

It was announced late last year by the provincial government that a minimum of $34 million would be cut from the Ministry of Education and Training.

However, there is some good news. The college learned in late December that it would receive $400,000 in new funding for seven recently-introduced programs; fibre optics, computer-assisted design, culinary skills, environmental management, international trade, microelectronics engineering and basic skills upgrading.

This new money comes from the Economic Renewal Fund, the brainchild of the Rae government created in an attempt to meet the demands of Ontario's struggling economy. The fund consists of a $13 million-pot allocated for college programs fulfilling immediate training needs in Ontario.

The impact of the funding cuts can not be determined until the province announces the tuition increases for the 1994-1995 academic year.

January Starts attract new students

By CHARLIE KOSCAK
Staff Writer

There are 416 new Niagara College students for the winter term.

The new students are part of a January-start program the college offers in a number of existing courses.

"The students will be able to complete one full year between January and July, come back in September, and enter their second year, allowing them to complete the programs as though they started the programs this past September," said admissions officer Mary Petruzella.

For example, a student in the January-start Business Administration program will have started classes on Jan. 10, and finish the first term on April 29. The student's second term will begin on May 2 and finish July 22.

By arranging the terms this way, the students will be able to enter the second year of Business Administration.

There were 18 January-start programs offered by the admissions department. Admissions staff returned from holidays Jan. 3 to accept last-minute applications to

continued on page 7

New daycare for college

By STUART MCDONALD
Staff Writer

A $1 million jobsOntario Capital grant to Niagara College from the Ontario Ministry of Community and Social Services will allow the college to build a new 100-space child-care centre.

The centre will replace the existing 66-space child-care facility, Welland-Thorold MPP Peter Kormos announced in a December press release.

Kormos said the centre's construction will provide jobs for about 13 people for about 12 months.

"This is great news not only for students and parents attending and working at Niagara College, but for parents in the community and our local economy as well," he said.

"When the centre is ready for enrolment, expected some time in the fall of 1994, it will help meet some of the pressures for additional child care spaces so that more young parents may complete their post-secondary education," said Kormos.

The child-care facility, which forms part of Niagara College's Early Childhood Education curriculum, will be more centrally located, presenting a higher visibility on campus.

A five-year, $2.3 billion fund, was announced in the 1992 provincial budget. It is designed to create jobs, support economic restructuring and promote community and social progress. It is one component of the provincial government's economic renewal strategy called jobsOntario.

Justice system changing; there is progress ...

By Heather D. Hodgson
Law and Security Administration Program
Special to Niagara News

Substance abuse is a factor in many acts of violence. Whether it is a robbery committed while on drugs, an offence to support a drug habit, sexual offences (commonly known as rape or date rape), or domestic violence, substance abuse is often involved. It is unknown whether these acts of violence would have occurred without the use of alcohol or other drugs. One issue is quite clear: The victim of the offence is a victim. He or she does not deserve the archaic mentality "You must have done something to provoke this" or "Couldn't you have done something to stop this?"

Victims fall prey to our prejudice. They get caught in a seemingly uncaring system where justice may seem to apply only to the accused. At times it may appear that the accused's rights outweight those of the victim. The justice system is changing. There is progress in many areas. However, for a victim who lives in fear of his or her attacker, these changes seem to offer little comfort.

Fear of rejection by friends and family members, concerns over physical injuries, financial burdens from lost time at work for recovery and/or court appearances and other problems weigh heavily on the victim. Lack of information, apparent lack of support by the police, the courts and/or those who are supposed to "be there" for the victim add to the problems.

There is assistance through the court process. The investigating officer, Crown attorney and support groups such as victim services, etc. will assist you through the process. You may be asked to prepare a "Victim Impact Statement". This statement allows you the opportunity to advise the court how you have been personally affected by the incident. In almost all instances, your testimony is crucial for a conviction of the accused.

YOU CAN DO SOME THINGS TO MAKE YOU FEEL MORE SECURE

There are options such as having a peace bond or restraint order placed on the accused. This official process makes it clear that the accused is not to have any contact with you. If he or she ignores the order, charges can be laid.

Changing your phone number and making the number unlisted or having a screening device that reads out the phone number of the caller are steps that are available but there will be a service charge by Bell Canada.

Having a "peep hole" placed on your door and alerting neighbors and friends to be watchful can also be done.

There is support, counselling and assistance. In addition to private support groups, therapy offered through your medical doctor, etc. these resources exist in the community:

*** Design For A New Tomorrow, St. Catharines 684-1223, 684-0644**

*** Victim Services (through Niagara Regional Police)**

In some cases the fees are covered through Ontario Health Insurance Plan.

If you have been a victim, don't let the experiences destroy you. Take the first step in reclaiming your life: seek out the help that you need.

KISS THE FLAME
NIAGARA COLLEGE

Crime Stoppers:

Credit card fraud a serious problem

Anyone can be a victim of credit card fraud. People can have cards stolen, businesses can be defrauded and unauthorized charges can be made to account numbers. Credit card fraud is a serious problem and we're all faced with paying the cost of losses.

Crime Stoppers is concerned with the growing problem of credit card crime and wants to hear from anyone with information about thefts or fraudulent use. People can also help to combat credit card crime by reporting lost cards to companies immediately and by never giving account numbers to people over the telephone.

Treat credit cards like cash

Consumers should treat credit cards like cash, keep a separate list of account numbers in case a wallet is stolen, and destroy carbons after completing a credit card transaction.

Crime Stoppers International, headquartered in Albuquerque, New Mexico, has issued some common sense recommendations to prevent people from becoming victims of credit card crime.

Never leave credit cards in your car, don't lend your cards to anyone and make sure transaction slips are properly filled in with the total amount before signing. Make sure your credit card is returned after making a purchase and keep copies of transaction statements to check against monthly bills. Deal only with reputable companies, never sign a blank credit card slip and make sure any improperly filled out slips are destroyed. Never give anyone your security number on a cash card and take steps to avoid being overheard when using a telephone credit card to pay for a call.

Remember, January is Crime Stoppers month, so get involved and help us solve crime throughout the Region. It's easy...just use your telephone.

If you have information about a credit card crime, or any other crime, call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-263-8477. That's 1-800-AND-TIPS to be eligible for a cash award up to $1,000. In all cases, you will not have to reveal your identity.

CRIME STOPPERS NIAGARA
TIPS
SOLVE A CRIME ANONYMOUSLY-EARN A CASH REWARD
1-800-263-8477 and-tips

The Niagara Regional Police, in co-operation with Crime Stoppers Niagara Inc., writes this column to help combat crime. A citizen board administers the local program. Reward money is raised through tax-deductible donations and cheques may be sent to Crime Stoppers of Niagara Inc., P.O. Box 1086, St. Catharines, Ont., L2R 7A3.

Award, award and award again!

First-year Law and Security Administration program students were awarded by the Canadian Red Cross Society for their continued support of the Niagara College Blood Donor Clinic. They were awarded both Corpsuckle Cup (for the program with the largest per cent of donors) and Buddy Blood Drop Jr. Trophy (the most pints donated by a program). The presentation took place in room M11 with Niagara College President John Saso and Vice President Academic David Schleich presenting the awards. A new first-time Staff Award was also presented to the Marketing and Information staff. Law and Security Administration program students from left are Dan Murawski and Shennon Simpell. Marketing Information Services staff are Jackie Deforest, Liliane Mills and Ron Mottola.

Photo by Keith Hobbs

Thieves target Student Centre

By TOM BRANK
Staff Writer

Thieves caused an estimated $300 damage to obtain a mere $30 in a pre-Christmas break-in at the Student Centre Dec. 16.

Thieves broke the lock and pryed the door open of the manager's office, taking $30 cash and doing extensive damage to the door. Night security and Niagara Regional Police responded to an alarm, but failed to arrive in time to capture anyone.

Manager Donna Flutur said the persons involved, "sure knew what they were doing," in finding the money before security arrived.

VP Internal wins election by narrow margin

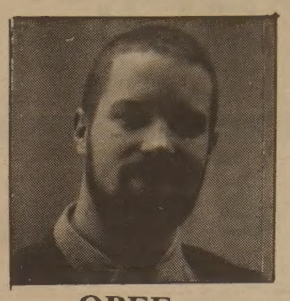
By GREG FURMINGER
Staff Writer

Trevor Obee inched his way into the position of Student Administrative Council vice-president internal by defeating Scott Currie by one vote in last month's SAC byelection.

"I anticipated it being close," said Currie, who noted there were three ballot recounts.

The Dec. 6 election results are as follows: Obee 45 votes, Currie 44 votes and Bernie Kurek 35 votes.

"From my point of view I don't think (the election) was a popularity contest," said Obee when asked about the narrow margin of victory and the low voter turnout.



OBEE

Kurek, who says he will run in April's SAC election, agreed it was not a popularity contest. He blames organizers for scheduling an election on a Monday — easily forgotten during a weekend — which resulted in few voters.

> '...I don't think (the election) was a popularity contest.'
>
> Trevor Obee

Currie, however, felt the majority of voters turned out to support their friends, but gave credit to concerned voters who evaluated candidates on more than their social standing.

The election filled a vacancy created when Brad Billard resigned as vice-president social. Billard's position was filled by vice-president internal Jeremy Lowe, thus leaving Lowe's position open for election.

"We definitely have to generate more interest for people to run," said Lou DiMattio, SAC liaison. The importance of SAC must be promoted, she said.

Obee, a first-year Journalism-Print program student, said last month's byelection had the largest turnout in about seven years. He said he hoped it was an indication students are getting more interested in what's going on.

"The numbers themselves were dismal, but the change has to start somewhere," said Obee. "Perhaps this election was the catalyst for the change."

Students receive 10 per cent discount with I.D. card

By ELIZABETH BROWN
Staff Writer

Every Niagara College student gets the discount.

Starting Jan. 1, the student card which every full-time, part-time and continuing education student has will entitle the holder to a 10 per cent discount on non-sale items from the list beside.

"We spent several months working on this project which is good all year," said Larry Nafultin, vice chairman and CEO of the Niagara College Foundation.

Students received the discount information in their registration packages.

"We are going to be making decals to give to each merchant to put in their store windows showing that they are participating in the discount program."

Nafultin said he hopes the program will continue next year.

NIAGARA FALLS
Arby's
6624 Lundy's Lane

Cashway Building Centres
5268 Montrose Rd.

Falls Manor Motel & Restaurant
7104 Lundy's Lane

Flings Chicken & Taters
5497 Portage Rd.

Frontier Business System Inc.
4501 Queen St.

Generous Motors Ltd.
6271 Thorold Stone Rd.

Grand and Toy
Niagara Square

Kirby's Interiors
4226 Drummond Rd.

Mister Transmission
4087 Stanley Ave.

Niagara Additions
3848 Main St.

Penguin Office Supplies
5920 Main St.

Romeo's Fine Jewellery
3473 Portage Rd.

Sabre Software & Computers
4634 Queen St.

Software First Computers Ltd.
5717 Brookfield Ave.

Star Gait
3766 Portage Rd.

Subway Sandwiches & Salads
5846 Drummond Rd.

SXS Hair Studio
4926 Bridge St.

Ultracell Communications
4917 Bridge St.

JORDAN STATION

D & R Collision & Alignment
2741 William St.

BEAMSVILLE

Doug's Sports Centre
4988 King St.

Dueck's Menswear
4973 King St. E.

Ericway Tire Inc.
5248 Highway 8 West

Manor Cleaners
45200 Ontario St.

Marlene Smith's Gift & Decorating
4999 King St. E.

Repro Plus
4520 Ontario St.

Victor's Shoes & Repair
4990 King St. E.

VINELAND

House of Hair
3924 Victoria Ave. N.

Plain & Fancy Restaurant
3100 No. 2 North Service Rd.

Prudhommes-Days Inn
3305 North Service Rd.

FORT ERIE

Perfect Portions
224 Garrison Rd.

W.G.R. Hollowforms
40 Courtwright St.

NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE

Angie Strauss
129 Queen St.

Jordan's Casual Wear
212 Regent St.

Last Few Fashion Outlet
183 Victoria St.

ST. CATHARINES

By Appointment [Body Sugaring]
23C Academy St.

Aloette Cosmetics
261 Martindale Rd., Unit 5

Audrey Rose
80 King St. Corbloc

Esprit Films
2 Lake St.

Framing Experience
300 Lake St.

Garden Eatery
276 Lake St.

JBM Office Systems
15 Hiscott St.

LaserNetworks
586 Welland Ave., Unit 3

Nemeth Lincoln Mercury
169 Hartzell Rd.
(repairs and maintenance only)

Perfect Portions
Pendale Shopping Plaza

Perfect Portions
353 Lake St.

Prismpressions
1-C Pelham Rd.

St. Catharines Volkswagon
125 Hartzell Rd.
(repairs and maintenance only)

The Laser Toners
48 Kilkenny Drive

The Paper Factory
210 Glendale Ave.

FONTHILL

Action Appraisal & Consultants
2 Brookbank Crescent

WELLAND

Amora Portrait Studio
440 Niagara St.
Chelwood Gate Plaza

Blake's Men's Shop
51 East Main St.

Carl Damude Ltd.
111 Division St.

Copyman Print Shop
572 Niagara St. North

D' Angelo Printing Company
87 West Main St.

Econoprint
16 Hellems Ave.

Golden Razor Unisex Hairstyling
980 East Main St.

I.A. Printing
32 Cross St.

Journey's End Motel
870 Niagara St.

K.D. & Associates Graphics
13 Dunkirk Court
(special resume package discount)

Lasting Impressions
54 Burger St.

Le Mirage
397 Thorold Rd.

Maclean Hunter Cable TV
317 King St.
(cable installation for $15)

Perfect Portions
440 Niagara St.

NIAGARA COLLEGE CANADA

Priority Business Postal Centre
572 Niagara St. North
(excluding stamps/money orders)

Rose Villa Tavern Ltd.
154 Riverside Dr.
(alcoholic beverages excluded)

Thomas Electronics/TV Sales
130 Thorold Rd. West
(sterio products, video accessories, tape, telephone & answering machines only)

Thorton's Cycle & Sports Centre
300 Lincoln St.
(parts & accessories only)

The Tribune
288 East Main St.
(10% for new subscriptions only)

Thrifty Car Rental
13 Southworth St.

SAC launches campaign

WHAT CAN WE DO FOR YOU!?

By GREG FURMINGER
Staff Writer

Student Administrative Council has launched an awareness campaign asking for student feedback to improve student functions and relations.

What Can We Do For You!? is "designed to let students know that SAC is there to help them," said vice-president internal Trevor Obee. Raising consciousness of SAC duties was Obee's first goal on council.

"SAC has definitely had a PR problem in the past," he said. "The main problem is a lack of communication."

SAC is encouraging students to come forward with problems, comments, ideas and criticisms that they may use to assess future issues.

"We can make better judgments based on input from students," said Obee.

"We try our hardest to get things done for students but they don't show up," said vice-president social Jeremy Lowe.

The message that SAC wants student imput will be relayed via posters and fliers.

"I'm pretty much going to plaster the school with posters," said Obee. "Everywhere you go, you'll know we're concerned."

SAC president Cris Margeson said students must understand "Things aren't going to go right all the time. We're not perfect.

"SAC is a learning process in itself. It's just a different latitude that we're learning," he said.

Niagara College gets run-around

New track opened

By ADELE NAGY
Staff Writer

The new exercise track at Niagara College in Welland is complete.

The official opening ceremony for the new track took place Dec.16, with Welland Mayor Dick Reuter and Niagara College President John Saso challenging each other to a mock race.

The exercise track, located off Rice Road, is four-tenths of a mile long and eight-feet wide. It is a joint project between the City of Welland and Niagara College. The city and the college will also be constructing a slo-pitch ball diamond and a vita parcours. The facilities can be used by the public as well as students and staff at the college.

"I guess this is the first Christmas gift that really the city has received," said Mayor Reuter during the opening ceremonies. "It is really much more than just an exercise track and a sports complex...it is the first step in partnering," he said. "But I think the most important thing is the signal it sends, that the City of Welland and Niagara College are working together now."

> 'I...want to know why it's squiggly.'
>
> Anneke Biller

In return, Saso spoke about the partnership between the city and Niagara. "This track is very important to us for a number of reasons," he said. "It really is a partnering arrangement...we have been working very hard with the city and Dick has provided some outstanding leadership in helping the college to realize some of its goals and some of the goals that will serve the people of Welland," he added.

The track will also be used by the Recreational Leadership program, which will be launched later this month. "This type of facility is extremely important if you want to have a recreational leadership program," Saso said. "This is a very important day for us."

Anneke Biller, 26, a Health Records Technician program student, said she thinks the new track is good for the ambulance students, "so they don't have to run on the road anymore, they've been doing that for years," she said. "I think it's a lot safer, but I still want to know why it's squiggly."

EDITORIAL PAGE

Can things get any worse?

Have you ever sat back and thought about how crappy things are in this world? I pride myself on optimism, but things are creeping out of control.

Niagara College will be hit with a funding cut of at least $340,000 in 1994, after word from The Ministry of Education and Training announced in December it will slash upwards of $34 million from provincial grants in 1994-95. This comes before any mention of tuition hikes, which are expected to rise to unprecedented heights for September.

On a regional level, Niagara is fighting Newfoundland for the honor of the highest unemployment percentage in Canada, and while we peruse the newspaper for employment opportunities, we still are not privy to the details of "Canada's Most Heinous Crime," committed in our midst.

As far as the rest of this world goes, Israel and the PLO have done little more than practise photo ops, while the bloody war wages on, Lorena Bobbitt does the unthinkable, Russia faces parliamentary upheaval, and the alarm sounds when I try to smoke on the roof of the second floor. What is happening to this world?

Merry New Year!

Andrea Snider

Life is for living, not for talking

Do you remember the old saying, "Things will never change unless people talk?"

It's not that I completely disagree with this, but what I do have a problem with is those who talk too much.

There are people that go through life with a big 'cause,' to either save the world from racism, enviromental destruction or to teach everyone the power of religion.

I am not belittling these causes, actually I think it's great that people stand tall in what they believe in. This is what makes us individuals and allows us to express our freedom of thought.

I do however, question the extremists, such as Neo Nazi's, feminists, and the bible thumpers.

I wonder why they spend so much time arguing and complaining and fighting for their 'cause.'

Life is too short to waste a lot of time worrying and upsetting yourself over things that can't be changed.

Some will forget to enjoy life, and unless I'm mistaken that is why we are all here.

Elizabeth Brown

Niagara News

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Publication ban supported

Dear Editor:

The publication ban on the Karla Homolka/Teale trial and the recent ban breakings have left many asking questions about the propriety of the judicial system to make such rulings.

As I understand, the ban has been in place to ensure the rules of criminal procedure and evidence in the upcoming Paul Teale trial, notably the charges in the deaths of Kristen French and Leslie Mahaffey. I support this publication ban as I want the guilty person out of society, for the protection of my family and others in the wider community.

If Paul Teale is guilty, I would be appalled if he were to escape justice by a technicality brought on by the banned information becoming public. For me, this takes priority over my "right to know" being gratified prior to the trial. Nevertheless, the issue of "freedom of the press" is an ongoing issue for Canadian people to resolve.

I do, however, see a larger and more serious issue in the recent ban breaking by some of the media in the United States, when they have purposely sent this information into Canada contrary to domestic judicial policy. Freedom of the press has inherent responsibility suited to the culture and society where these freedoms are based. It is inappropriate to go against another country's judicial system; in this case, it demonstrates expansive, self-indulgent intrusion. When this information crossed the border the media responsible for it crossed the line. It is outrageous and incredible that they have broken into our house, ransacked the contents and used their own value base to redecorate.

Canadian society has established the powers of the judiciary to make rulings on the publication of court proceedings. The choice to change this comes from the Canadian people and their legal process. This reflects our culture and values. This publication ban debate is not to be stepped on by foreign media regardless of how "friendly" they are seen to be. I feel violated by the U.S. media who have in such a guileful and subversive way imposed their ethics and morals upon the Canadian public. As of now, the rules of the U.S. justice system, the right to know, has taken control of this Canadian legal process. This to me becomes another example of political manipulation and invasion clouded in the mist of journalistic ethics. This is a blatant show of disrespect for the rights of Canadians to conduct our own affairs.

Sincerely,
Richmond Lutz, Professor
Community Services Division

Niagara News praised

Dear Editor:

I would like to thank you for your participation in the youth awareness campaign organized by Elections Canada.

Judging by the number of enquiries we have received from students and additional material requested by a large number of associations, youth groups and individuals, it appears that the campaign has been successful in informing young Canadians about their right to vote and how to exercise that right. This achievement would not have been possible without your help.

It is encouraging for us to have had the support and assistance of so many civic-minded individuals and organizations such as yours. Our community relations officer, Denise McCulloch, joins me in thanking you very sincerely for your enthusiastic assistance.

Jean-Pierre Kingsley
Chief Electoral Officer
of Canada

Parking fees condemned

Dear Editor:

Regarding your article "Parking fees low" (Niagara News, Dec. 3, 1993, page 21), this is a classic case of comparing apples and oranges.

We should be comparing our (Niagara College's) fees to other "local" businesses. For example, Atlas Steel, Canadian Tire Acceptance and the Niagara South Board of Education do NOT charge. Even our local hospital (NOT known as a user-friendly organization) provides a free parking area for those who can't afford the daily charge.

We should view the parking fee as yet another "grab all you can" tax on captive clients (the students and employees of the college.)

John Russell
Professor
Foundation Studies
Niagara College

More letters on Page 5

Second year of Food for Friends a success

By ANGELA KOTLARZ
Staff Writer

Months of hard work have paid off for those involved in co-ordinating Niagara College's Food for Friends campaign.

The support from community businesses and staff and students helped to make the second annual food drive a success.

"We're really happy with the response," said Dave Rapelje, a counsellor at Niagara and the food drive's co-ordinator.

A figure of the amount of non-perishable items collected is not yet available, but "Our goal was to generate more food than last year and we've achieved that," said Rapelje.

The total collected this year has exceeded last year's total partially because of a "huge donation from Canadian Tire Acceptance that really helped us out," he added. The company donated 14 boxes of food to the college food drive.

Donations from the community were the "big plus," said Rapelje, with other corporate donors including Commisso's Food Terminal, Pupo's Supermarket, A & P Food Store - which donated 2,000 food bags - Shoppers Drug Mart, Hair Hunters and Cut Plus Unisex Hair Styling, all in Welland. Food City, Loeb Plus in St. Catharines also contributed to the food drive.

Marcel Turpin, of the Welland Community Food Drive, made a donation to the college food drive as well.

"A total of 120 students were assisted last year, the first time we held a college food drive," said Rapelje. "This year we're expecting even more demand.

"We're just trying to keep some statistics as to where the food is going," he said prior to the Christmas break.

Extra food may be kept around until next year so organizers have a "head start" on next year or the food may go back into the community, but "for the most part we have such a demand now I don't think we'll be left with anything," said Rapelje.

During the week of Nov. 29 to Dec. 3, the Tree of Hope and Sharing was located in Manera Court with staff and students urged to bring a decoration for the tree, a donation for Toys for Tots or a donation for the Food for Friends campaign. This helped to generate some food, but "it was more symbolic of what we were trying to do and it was a nice touch," said Rapelje.

The campaign was also supported by the Niagara College Student Administrative Council, the Niagara College Retirees Club, the Institute of Electronic Engineers Students Club and numerous individual students and staff.

Barney loved by children, despised by adults

By PEGGY TEDDER
Staff Writer

Barney. He's the phenom of toddler television. He's purple, polite and making children blissfully happy.

However, for some, Barney constitutes a love/hate relationship. The kids love him, the parents hate him. Some parents complain Barney is too cutesy and predicatable. His young TV friends are charged with possessing saccharine personalities, and in turn receive a fair amount of hostility from annoyed parents.

Parental disapproval has trickled down to older children who have been catching the anti-Barney wave. Barney bashing is becoming all too common. Four boys in Galveston, Tex., attacked a Barney look-alike at the reopening of a K-Mart. The boys aged 10 to 15 were fined and released. Three were given a 6 p.m. curfew and the fourth was sent to a juvenile detention centre.

A Florida-based group, the 'I Hate Barney Society' offers a seven-step Barney recovery program. The suggestion of the month: buy Barney a one-way ticket to Miami and dress him like a tourist.

Not everyone appreciates the society's humor. "Obviously, they don't have enough in their life to keep them busy, that they spend their time picking on a child's role model. Barney and Friends is packed with good things, he is a good influence on my kids and they love him," said Shelley Cook, 30, health science preparatory program student at Niagara College.

Dr. Zopino Marini, associate professor and director of child studies at Brock University, agrees. "Barney bashing is more adult driven than from a child's point of view. If children are left to their own devices they will enjoy and learn." Dr. Marini says Barney and Friends has a lot of factors that would appeal to a child. Barney typifies the positive aspects of life, he has a happy disposition which children respond to. "It is indeed quite positive," said Marini.

Dr. Marini recalled the phenomenon of Ninja Turtles, which contained a fair amount of violence. "The Ninja Turtles were looked upon as role models by children and many parents were concerned about this."

"I like the fact that a non-violent strategy is used in the show, it is gentle and kind. Barney stresses all the wonderful manners we are working on here," said Nancy Poole, special needs teacher at Central School in Grimsby, Ont.

The producers of Barney have begun to bash back, but in a caring way. They are about to release a study from Yale University's Family Television Research and Consultation Centre that describes Barney and Friends as a model of what a preschooler show should be.

Barney's Favorites, Vol. 1, recently surged up Billboard magazine's pop charts as the "greatest gainer," climbing to No. 9 from 31 in a single week.

Dr. Marini says Barney is riding a wave of interest in dinosaurs and has managed to capture the best part of this era, one that children can identify with.

Ganuau Sun

Pen pal wanted

Dear Editor:

While lecturing at Yueyang University in China last fall, a Chinese student asked me to pass on his request for a pen pal in Canada. This student is

Mr. SUN, Ganuau (SUN is his family name)
Mechanics/Electrical Department
Class 91, Section 01
Yueyang University,
Yueyang City, Hunan Province
People's Republic of China
414000

I hope you can help Mr. Sun find a pen pal. Enclosed is a picture of Mr. Sun.

Gordon Chen
Technology Division
Niagara College

Angolan deaths ignored

Dear Editor,

I am a second-year journalism student. I am compiling a file of news articles on the civil war in Angola, and am appalled at what I've found. Since starting my file in September, I have only managed to find an occasional blurb on the subject.

The United Nations estimates 1,000 people are dying everyday because of this war, and no one is taking any notice. Conflicts in Bosnia-Herzegovina and other former Soviet states have taken over the media spotlight, pushing more newsworthy events onto the back burner.

When will the Western world stop playing wet nurse to victims of the Soviet Union's collapse and start helping people who really need it? The fact that the United States has no financial or political interests in countries like Angola shouldn't condemn them to obscurity.

As members of the media, journalists have a responsibility to report the truth, no matter where it lies. This doesn't mean pandering to the whims of the U.S. or any other political power.

Mike Michaud
Journalism-Print Year II

Make event annual

Dear Editor:

What a heartwarming experience was had by all who took part in the Christmas ceremony around the Tree of Hope and Sharing in Manera Court on Dec. 3.

Many thanks to all who helped to make this event such a success — Gord McPherson, the co-ordinator of the activity, the General College students who took part, the carol-ers (all named Carol) and their assistant singers and musicians, Santa (D'Arcy McHayle), the elves (Jan Potton, Heather Hodgson, Terry Mason, Greg Laughton), and Master of Ceremonies Gerry Lance.

As well, a few hundred dollars was collected to help with the various food and toy drives around the campus. This was truly a successful event, full of spirit and good cheer.

Let's make this a tradition at our campus!

Marti Jurmain
Director
Access and General Education

New course to make creative people

By ADELE NAGY
Staff Writer

Wind chimes made from tuna-fish cans and safety-pins.

That is one of the creations that resulted from Virginia Roberts-Hannah's new The Creative Person course, which was offered for the first time last semester at Niagara College in Welland, and will be offered again next September.

"Creativity is something we all think we need," says Roberts-Hannah. "It is good for students to discover they are creative."

Roberts-Hannah, who has been at the college for 17 years, was surprised that her course, offered as an elective, attracted business students. She was also impressed with their performance.

"I believe that creativity is the centre for entrepreneurship" and "entrepreneurship is many people's lives," she added.

In The Creative Person course, students studied biographies of creative people, how to recognize creativity in children and adults and how to nurture it. They also studied creative problem solving, the connection between computers and creativity, and the connection between creativity and entrepreneurial leadership.

Some projects were: the above-mentioned wind chimes made out of tuna-fish cans and safety-pins; a children's book; a dream home; window displays; spaghetti, (which they ate), and home-made videos. If that wasn't enough, there was also a live display of hypnotism, a comedy act, and a presentation on "the art of witching."

Roberts-Hannah said in her class of 38 students, "most of them did not see themselves as creative, but now have changed their minds. If you are creative and you have high self-esteem, you can do almost anything," she added.

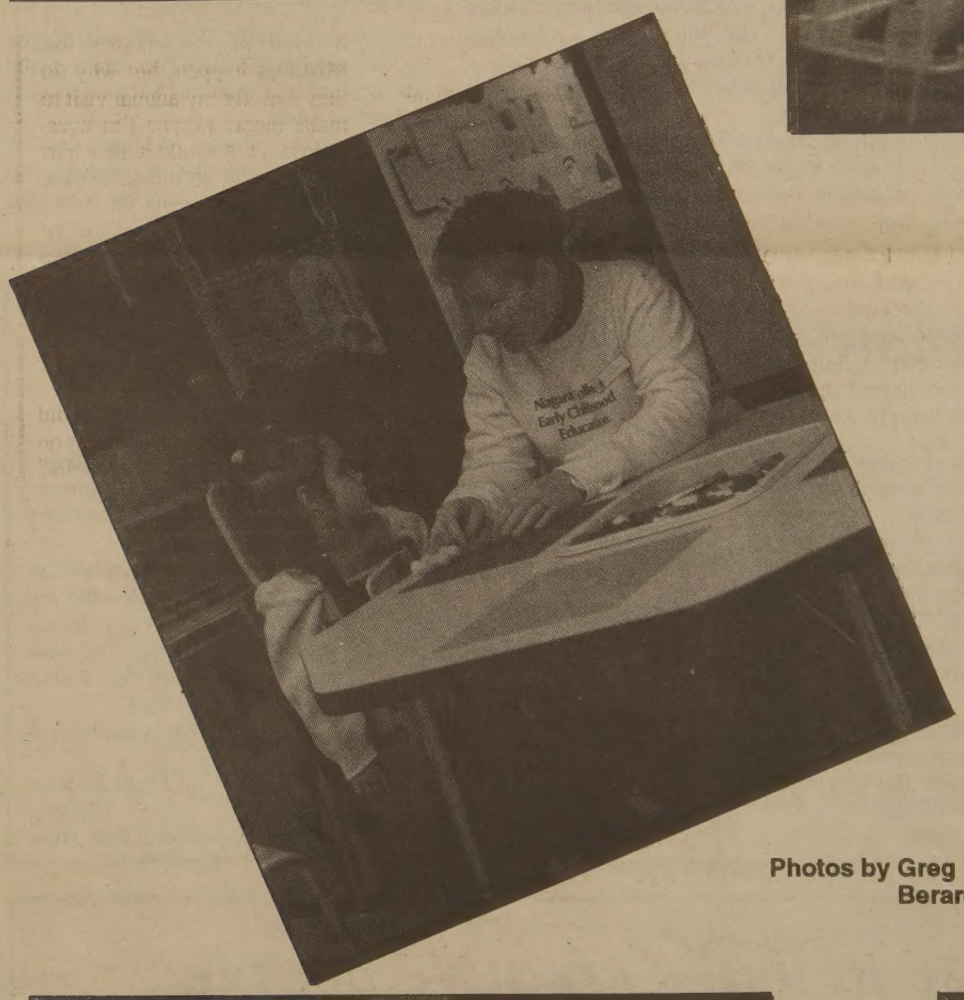
Asked where the idea for the course came from, Roberts-Hannah said it came from herself after "germinating for about two years." She said she "could see very bright students not believing in themselves." She started reading on creativity and found so much information that she found it difficult to put it into a two-hour course.

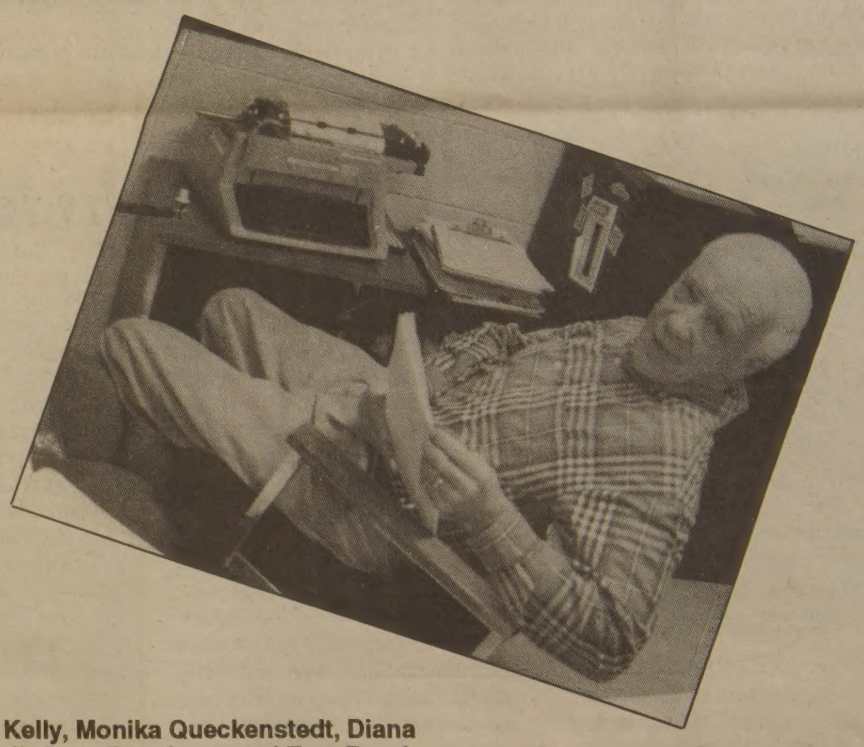
Roberts-Hannah, who sees creativity "as a way of life," says "the single greatest need of students today is to be heard, not just listened to, but fully heard."

"I think that the college is full of creative people - they just have to find it out - and this is just one channel," she added.

Niagara College

people, places and things





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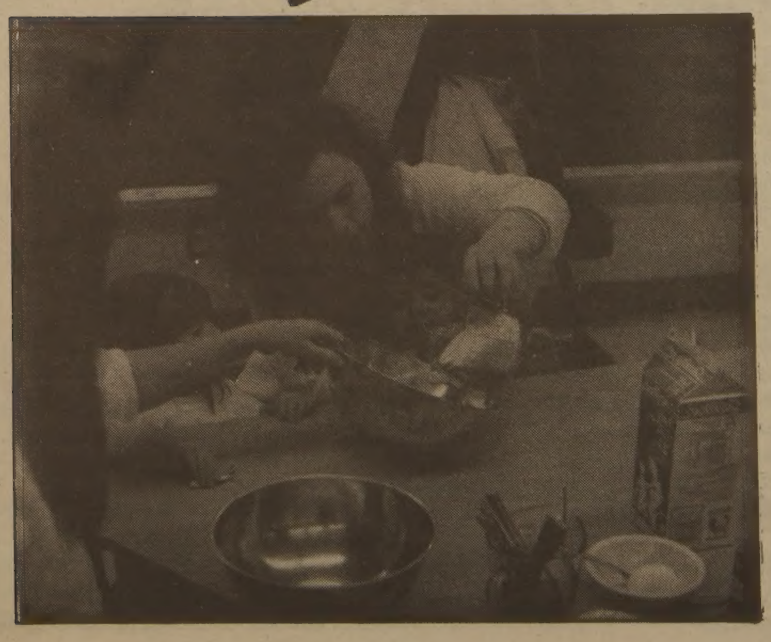

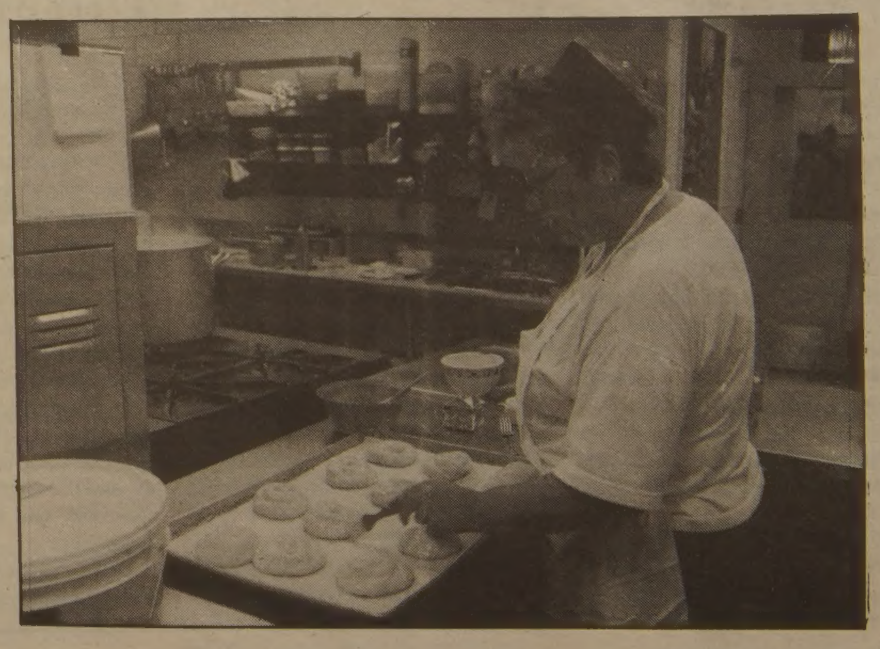

Trial evaluation system receives mixed reviews

By SALLY BOND
Staff Writer

The changing face of Ontario's health care has caused Niagara College's Nursing program to examine a new method of evaluating students.

Objective Structured Clinical Examination (O.S.C.E.) was given a trial-run at the Mack Nursing Centre in St. Catharines on Dec. 14, 1993.

Linda Willms, the year two coordinator for the Nursing program, said with clinical resources "shrinking" through hospital bed cuts, patients are not always available for students to practise skills they are taught.

Through written and practical testing, O.S.C.E., according to literature provided by McMaster University, provides an objective means of assessing students' skills.

While the college's Ambulance and Emergency Care program has used O.S.C.E. in the past, Willms said the testing method was only "dreamt of" one year ago for her program.

The testing at the Mack Centre involved an hour-long quiz as well as 10 different stations where students were given five minutes at each to demonstrate their nursing skills. These included preparing for a catheterization on a mock patient, client health teaching, and performing proper nursing process.

Testing 'dreamt of' one year ago

Students were evaluated by teaching staff and third-year nursing students, although Willms stressed the evaluation would have no bearing on their final marks.

The various skills tested, said Willms, were examples of what students should know at the end of the third term.

At the conclusion of the testing, students attended a follow-up seminar which discussed what the evaluators were looking for and provided an opportunity to answer any questions.

Angela Daley, a second-year nursing student who participated in O.S.C.E., said she prefers the current system of assessing students in the lab.

Daley said she would have preferred a checklist of the skills she had missed during the practical testing and disagreed with peer evaluation.

While no decision has been reached on O.S.C.E. implementation, it is an example, said Willms, of the nursing program's desire to "ensure the public we are providing a quality product" in its students.

Poet triumphs over disability

By GREGORY KELLY
Staff Writer

Wendy Paul writes from her heart not her wheelchair.

The 35-year-old poet and Niagara College student has just published a collection of original poetry entitled Come Look Into My Heart. Paul, enrolled in the Writing for Publication progam, credits many sources of inspiration, but says the greatest source are her emotions.

"Writing is a source of therapy for me - it's a way to express my inner most feelings," she says.

Paul's writing strays from typical Canadian poetry. She says her focus is more on the emotion and experience of life.

Life
Life is a never-ending river of experiences,
and we are but mere mortals trapped within its waters.
Battered against the rocks of uncertainty;
fighting against the whirlpools of ignorance
and if our minds and hearts stay strong
we learn to ride high upon the waves of knowledge.

One of her other inspirations is the fact she is in a wheelchair. Eight years ago, Paul contracted post-polio syndrome and, at the same time, spinal meningitis. However, Paul does not see herself as handicapped. Paul prefers her self created title as an alter-abled individual.

"I looked up alter in the dictionary and it means different. I can do almost everything I could when I was walking. I'm still able, I just do things differently now," says Paul.

Come Look Into My Heart is available for $9.95 at the Niagara College bookstore in Welland and at various bookstores across the region. Paul has also had talks with a large national chain bookstore as well.

Library slip-up ruffles student

By JOHN BELL
Staff Writer

Our library is lost.

So is my patience.

In December I borrowed a few books from the Niagara College Welland campus library. A few days later I returned the books ahead of the due date. I thought everything was fine until the library began sending me notices claiming that one of the books had not been returned.

I received two notices reminding me that if I didn't return the book, which, incidently, was last loaned out in April, then I'd pay the price. A quarter per day to be exact. The third notice arrived a few days ago, threatening to give my name to a credit bureau if I didn't return the book. I was pleased to see that someone actually took the time to sign this letter. Unfortunately, I think a little less time was given to looking for the book.

I returned to the library the next day and walked over to the section where I originally found the book. Guess what I found? My book. Containing my rage, I confronted the librarian with the book, and we found the due date inside had already been crossed out by a librarian when the book was returned. I received a most impersonal "Oh" when she found out about the mistake. That's alright, I didn't expect an apology.

In fact, I would like to thank the library staff. Kudos to a job well done. I don't think my Christmas holidays would have been the same if I didn't spend every waking hour searching for that book. What kind of holiday would I have had if I wasn't being harassed at home by an incompetent pack of book loaners?

I would also like to thank the library for spending the money to send me the letters and wasting the paper they were printed on. I wonder if they would have accepted my late payments and replacement costs, then rented the book out later without noticing a thing. Or maybe the error would be found and I'd be sent some valuable gift certificates for After Hours or the cafeteria.

I'm upset. For the number of times I use the library, this harassment was uncalled for. Mistakes happen, but why do they wait for my annual visit to make them? Maybe I'm overreacting, but would it have hurt the librarian so much to have just said "sorry," even if she didn't mean it? As a result of this little fiasco, I intend to stay as far away from the library as possible, and if I must use it, the librarian can expect the same lack of manners I was shown.

This time I was right. I did my job by returning the books on time. Why didn't they do theirs?

Educations are worlds apart

By LORI DUCK
Staff Writer

They study their whole life, just to secure their futures.

Canadian students have it so much easier than Japanese students, when it comes to our educational systems.

Chiaki Hosoki, Miho Nakajima and Nobuko Mori are English as a Second Language (ESL) students here at the college and said the differences between Canadian and Japanese educational systems "was surprising."

Their school year begins in April and ends in March when they have a two-week vacation. There is also a summer vacation from July 21 to Aug. 31 and a winter vacation from Dec. 24 to Jan. 10. During the winter vacation students have a lot of homework, said Nakajima.

Japanese students go to elementary school for six years and junior high school for three years. Everyone goes to school then, it is "their duty," said Mori.

High school is for three years, but you have to pass an exam in order to go to high school. You then study all through high school to study for the exam to go to junior university or university. The exam is "very very difficult," said Nakajima. Once you get in university it gets easier, the work is not as hard.

"The teachers in Japan are not as friendly as the teachers here," said Hosoki. In Japan, it is considered "impolite and a waste of class time" to raise your hand and ask questions. If you have a question you must keep it to the end and ask the teacher later, said Mori. In class the students sit, listen and write what the teacher is saying. There are no discussions and no presentations. Nakajima, Mori and Hosoki find it difficult to express their opinions in their classes, because they were brought up to do the opposite.

Nakajima said public school was not enough and after a regular day of school she would go to another school and study some more. She needed the extra studying. If you didn't pass your exam for high school or university you would spend the whole next year studying for it. If you didn't want to go to university, instead of going to a regular high school you could go to a business school. People who go to university earn more money out in the work force, than someone who didn't go. You could be doing the same work but a university degree means more, said Mori.

When the three women found out not all courses here at the college needed an entrance exam they were surprised by how easy we really do have it here in Canada.

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Continued from page 1

the various programs, says Petruzella.

The Nursing, Law and Security Administration, Business Administration and Recreation Leadership programs were filled before the new year, she says. For the Business program, though, applications were still being accepted and put on a waiting list.

New this year are the Recreation Leadership and Dental Office Administration programs. The Recreation program is for students interested in working in homes for the aged, says Petruzella.

The Dental program is a one-year (two-term) program. Graduates will be able to look for work as early as this August, Petruzella says.

There are a total of 4,681 full-time students at Niagara College.

Smoking's anti-social flavor prompts legislation

By DONNA DOLYNSKY
Staff Writer

What was once considered a glamorous, socially acceptable activity is now evolving into a stigmatic, unsociable deviance.

Smoking is becoming anti-social behavior as legislation and anti-smoking groups keep on pushing to clean up the act.

New legislation, which was unveiled in November, pushes the legal age to purchase cigarettes to 19 from 18. However, the legislation raised eyebrows because it proposes the banning of cigarette sales in drugs stores and venting machines.

The province's anti-smoking program hopes to cut cigarette consumption in half by the year 2000.

"We have to take strong measures against a deadly habit that is addicting young people at younger ages," Ontario Health Minister Ruth Grier told a news conference at the Ontario legislature in December.

"There are many things that must be closely looked at," said John Henderson, longtime owner of Henderson's Pharmacy in Thorold.

The pharmacy had been selling tobacco products prior to 1931, when the store was renamed Henderson's Pharmacy.

If cigarette sales are banned in the store, Henderson said they would have to replace tobacco products with something else that would draw comparible traffic through the store in order to prevent cutbacks in employees' hours.

Henderson said he cannot take a stand at this time (but) "will live with" the outcome of the issue.

If smoking is shifted from the "unpopular" status into the "act of deviance," smokers will be forced to sneak out onto roofs, hallways, or any hide-a-way nook they can find to have a puff.

"Most fires caused by careless cigarette smoking has been primarily inside private premises," said full-time firefighter Rick Honsburger of the Thorold Fire Department. He said the department had not yet looked at the possibility of fires caused by smokers who sneak cigarettes, but will take note of any instances resulting from increasing number of smoking-prohibited areas.

Twenty-three per cent of the smoking population who buy their cigarettes at drug stores can easily purchase them at local grocery, department or corner stores if not already buying them from the U.S.

Banning these sales from drug stores will result in an open market for other sources.

If cigarette vending machines are removed from restaurants and bars, owners can easily resort to over-the-counter sales if the demand by customers is popular.

Niagara has been striving for a smoke-free college for almost two and-a-half years since a smoking policy was introduced. Smoking was then restricted to a section in After Hours and outside of all other buildings.

Butts piled on butts lay in the doorways of most entrances until recently. Maintenence crews have gone to such measures as to install metal ashtrays on the concrete walls and provide sand barrels for those who need to slip out for a puff. Some smokers still neglect to use these facilities but overall the "people are very good about the policy," said Vice President of Student Life, Human Resources Carol Boettcher.

The policy to create a smoke-free climate at Niagara College was designed with warnings for first-time offenders, then fines starting at $50 to $100 for repeat offences. Understanding the tight-financial position of many students, Boettcher said alternatives such as cleaning butt-littered areas, as a penalty may have been accepted, for the time it would take to pay for the amount of the fine.

One problem stemming from the smoke-free policy is the loss of heat as a result of doors left open when smokers step out through emergency exits.

"We cannot fine someone for leaving the doors open," said Boettcher, adding "economically" it results in a large loss of heat for certain areas of the college, and a waste of money which could be used for better purposes.

"The potential for fines still exist," Boettcher said, but she has not heard of any recent crackdown on smokers in emergency exits or inside the premises.

Dangers of smoking—sobering

By PEGGY TEDDER
Staff Writer

Opening a package of cigarettes isn't as gratifying as it used to be. No matter which way you look, it's impossible to ignore the warnings - smoking is a major cause of heart disease - smoking by pregnant women may result in fatal injury, premature birth and low birth weight.

Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health Richard Schabas abandons warnings and replaces them with sobering facts in a report issued in November 1993.

Each year tobacco use kills more than 13,000 Ontario residents, 6,000 of these deaths are due to Ischemic Heart Disease, (IHD). Tobacco also contributes to strokes and lung disease, the other leading causes of death.

In his report, Schabas focuses on IHD, which accounts for 61 per cent of all heart-disease deaths. IHD has become a population health problem, one that is a challenge for the vast majority of Ontario residents, not just a few vulnerable people.

IHD, better known as coronary heart disease, involves the coronary arteries, which supplies the heart muscle with blood. The result is that not enough blood reaches the heart muscle, depriving it of needed oxygen. This often causes chest pains known as angina. If an adequate blood supply is not restored, part of the heart muscle can be damaged, resulting in a heart attack.

Quitting smoking is the single most important action that an individual can take to reduce the risk of IHD.

Schabas suggests the elimination of smoking in public places and the workplace to protect individuals from exposure to second-hand smoke. Second-hand smoke, a consequence of our 20th century lifestyle, is known to be responsible for asthma, cancer and bronchitis.

Even if family members can't overcome their tobacco addiction, they should not smoke in the home. Children tend to adopt the habits of their parents and are more likely to become smokers themselves. A sizeable portion of Ontario adolescents are smoking regularly, the report says, and these young people have been enticed into an addiction they will find hard to break.

Mike Sousa, 20, of Beamsville, Ont., a smoker since the age of 10, says the only reason he would quit smoking is because of the expense. "I enjoy the habit, I'm still young and I'm not concerned about my health yet."

The report says society is sending mixed messages to young people about tobacco. We preach about its health effects, but continue to allow it to be sold like candy. It suggests we use all the weapons in our arsenal against this menace - education, legislation and taxation.

IHD is a modern epidemic. It kills more Ontario residents than any other cause. It is responsible for nearly one in every four deaths.

It's never too late to quit, it's never too soon to quit.

Wanted: talented students

By GREG FURMINGER
Staff Writer

Niagara College students with a flair for entertaining will soon be able to present their talents to audiences at After Hours.

'Culture in this area is essentially dead,' said Obee. 'We need to revive it.'

In early February, Student Administrative Council, with co-operation from student centre manager Donna Flutur, will operate a coffee house. Trevor Obee, vice-president internal, said the open-mike atmosphere will provide a forum for students to present recitals of poems, short stories and plays.

"Culture in this area is essentially dead," said Obee. "We need to revive it."

He said the coffee house will be an arena for acoustical music, stand-up comedy and visual arts presentations.

"It's a different opportunity for students to get together and share in the creative process," said Obee.

Internet comes to College

MIKE MICHAUD
Staff Writer

Niagara College staff and some students will be linking up with computers around the world, thanks to the Internet.

The Internet is a "network of networks," said Elizabeth Weldon, who with a team of Niagara College staff have been working since April 1993 to find the best way to hook the college up to the worldwide computer network.

Over the Christmas holidays, 120 Niagara staff members spent three hours learning how to use the network, she said. As well as staff members, students in the electronics technology program will also be learning to use the Net, as it is sometimes called.

Access to the Net will allow users to electronically search for any kind of information, anywhere in the world. Users can also send E-mail to others or copy any number of the thousands of software programs available.

Weldon said her team wants to "see how it goes" with staff on the Net. She said next year almost any course that teaches students to use the library will also teach how to use the Internet.

Rose race

By KEITH HOBBS
Staff Writer

The 1994 Rose Queen race has begun, with applications now being accepted for June's competition.

Applications must be received by Feb. 6. They are available from Crazy Lee's in the Rose City Plaza, The Rose Festival Office on Division Street in Welland, Coles Book Store in the Seaway Mall and at the SAC office here on campus.

Applicants must be between the ages of 18 and 22 (as of June 4, 1994), single and a permanent resident of Welland.

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Hospitality and Tourism students get taste of industry

By DIANA BERARDI
Staff Writer

The Canadian Food Service Executives Association (C.F.S.E.A.) allows students at the Hospitality and Tourism Centre in Niagara Falls to profit from the knowledge and experience of various tourism professionals.

Niagara College's C.F.S.E.A. organization is one of about 18 junior branches in Canada, said Yvonne Halliday, Niagara College Junior Branch president.

The C.F.S.E.A. is a national non-profit association with senior branches across Canada. The senior branch members include food management professionals such as restaurant managers, chefs and nutrition administrators. Students are not eligible to become senior members because they are not employed full time in the food service industry.

The Niagara College Junior Branch meets on a monthly basis to encourage the education, fellowship and networking of its members. The agenda from September to Decmeber included a resume writing and interview seminar in October, a tour of two local bed and breakfasts inns in November and a tour of the Pillitteri winery in December, said Halliday.

'It was very successful'
-Halliday

On Feb. 15 a meeting on service and its importance will be held at Red Lobster. Students are also welcome to attend senior branch meetings.

Halliday, a third-year Hotel and Restaurant Administration student, was the 1993 recipient of the C.F.S.E.A. Gold Plate Award. This is a $400 bursary awarded in April of each year to a student obtaining the highest standing in the areas of education, C.F.S.E.A. participation, industry experience, community involvement and a written essay assignment.

The gold plate winners from across Canada compete for the National Gold Plate Award which takes place in the summer. This summer's national competition will take place in Nova Scotia.

The Niagara College Junior Branch of the C.F.S.E.A. organizes several social and community events around the college. The Hospitality and Tourism Centre's Christmas toy drive for the Salvation Army was a C.F.S.E.A. project. "It was very successful. We collected seven full boxes of toys," said Halliday.

Other committee members of the Niagara College Junior Branch include vice-president, Cory Campbell; second vice-president and treasurer, Colin Stevenson; and secretary, Brian Gregory.

Learning motorcycle instruction

By DONNA DOLYNSKY
Staff Writer

Training to train others in riding techniques and skills in safety measures is the aim of the Motorcycle Instructor's Training program, which starts Jan. 25 and finishes March 26.

This program has already received about 45 inquiries with six definite registrations, says Sue Tallon from Niagara College's Continuing Education Department, adding the program will carry on with 10 to 12 applicants.

The message from the community is positive, although "the money factor in these tough times" is the dominating drawback, said Tallon.

Applicants must have at least three years licenced (Class M) motorcycle driving experience and have completed a first-aid course such as the St. John's Ambulance course. Applicants must also be prepared to have their driving record verified by the Ministry of Transportation and Communications.

The deadline for applications for the program is Jan. 18.

Successful graduates who are eligible to teach will instruct at least three sessions, commencing in April through August of this year.

"This course is for those who have a real love for motorcycles," said Tallon, adding the summer training sessions for novice riders are scheduled mainly on weekends.

Tallon said the new graduated licensing system may affect the program, but cannot determine yet whether it will have a negative or a positive impact. "We are dealing with the unknown at this time," she said.

Anyone interested in the Motorcycle Instructor's Training Program can register at the Continuing Education office (905) 735-2211 or contact Sue Tallon (Ext. 7156).

Fighting illiteracy

By ALAN GILDAY
Staff Writer

The federal government has taken a giant step in the fight against illiteracy in this country by spending $1 million on an existing government program.

The Literacy Youth Corp, a program initiated in 1984, is aimed at helping youth under the age of 25 upgrade their reading and writing skills and prepare for the job market.

"The Literacy Corps is making inroads among illiterate youth by tearing down the major barrier to their job opportunities," said Bernard Valcourt, federal minister of human resources and labor.

He added that a learning culture that emphasizes education is essential to a strong economy. "Illiteracy costs Canada a staggering $14 billion a year in lost productivity and human potential."

The major focus of the Literacy Corps program is to assist literacy agencies in recruiting and training volunteers to become literacy tutors. Clients typically include youth from low income and/or single parent families, natives, youth offenders and disabled youth. For youth that are at risk of dropping out of school, the program is tailored to the individual's needs, while youth that are out of school receive training that is geared to their occupational goals and the job market.

A recent survey of 10,000 students released by the Ministry of Human Resources and Labor indictes that 74 per cent of graduates were enrolled in or had completed an advanced education program, compared to only 17 per cent of the dropouts. High school dropouts also had difficulty with basic skills required for jobs, and expressed uncertainty regarding their future. Youth aren't the only people that are taking advantage of available educational opportunities, 24 per cent of adults between the ages of 25 and 34 are also enrolled in some form of education. The most popular courses seem to be in the areas of commerce, management and business administration.

Doctor working After Hours

By GREG FURMINGER
Staff Writer

A 36-year-old chiropractor from Burlington was the toast of Niagara College as a small crowd cheered him on in After Hours Dec. 16.

Pat Hewitt described himself as "somebody who strives to give people enjoyment" and he did just that when he brought his one-man band to the college.

"Half my show is me and my guitar and the other half is sequencers," he stated.

It was Hewitt's first appearance at Niagara but it didn't take long for students to learn that when he raises his glass it's a cue for them to wail "Sociable."

Hewitt likens "Sociable" to a rugby call. It's origins trace back to his partying days at MacMaster University as the phrase "Let's get sociable" and evolved to the one-word cry of today.

Live and Sociable, Hewitt's follow-up cassette to The Reasoned Heart, is a collection of some of his favorite performances recorded at Brock University's Issac's and the Fox and Fiddle in Mississauga.

The cassette features renditions of Van Morrison's Brown-Eyed Girl, the Beatles' Here Comes the Sun and John Denver's Country Boy. Not your average playlist, but the tunes are popular and inspire sing-a-longs and smiles. TV Show Medley and the Wild West Show are nonsensical ditties that produce peak audience participation.

There are no future bookings for Hewitt to return to Niagara but Student Administrative Council president Cris Margeson says, "He will definitely be back."

Student volunteers needed by Niagara service groups

By SALLY BOND
Staff Writer

A few spare minutes each week could be transformed from spare time into time dedicated to the community.

Welland-area non-profit organizations have developed several volunteer programs that allow students to help in the community without a major commitment of time.

"Flexibility is the name of the game," said Sue McCann, executive director for the Welland/Pelham Meals on Wheels program at 40 Market Square in Welland.

Students who are able to volunteer on a regular basis can participate in the hot or frozen meal services as well as the Meals on Wheels program, all of which require a commitment of time from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. either once a week or once a month.

Running errands and helping with office work is also needed and the latter can be a good resume addition, as McCann said.

For students unable to make a weekly contribution, help is always needed to deliver brochures or sell raffle tickets.

"Freedom to chose is important if you're giving of your leisure time," she said.

Interested students can contact McCann at 788-3181.

Big Sisters of Welland, Port Colborne and Pelham, at the Seaway Mall, 800 Niagara St. in Welland, is another group which can utilize students' spare time.

Executive Director Joanne McKinley said the tutor program was specifically created for people with only a few hours available each week to volunteer.

For one hour each week, students can help tutor children in subjects that include math, spelling and geography.

The application process, however, is "fairly lengthy," said McKinley, as potential volunteers must provide three references and agree to a police check.

All those wishing to volunteer can contact McKinley at 732-2341.

The Welland County General Hospital on 63 Third St. interviews volunteer applicants to determine where their interests lie and what amount of time they are willing to give.

Carol Sykes, manager of public relations and volunteer services, said students who have available time during the day can assist in the playroom, long-term care ward, and recreation department while students with time in the evening can help with patient feedings.

Sykes said volunteers need to be available for a minimum of two hours each week.

The hospital's volunteer services can be contacted at 732-6111, extension 2380.

The Community Resource and Action Centre, at 77 Divison St. in Welland needs volunteers to assist in the soup kitchens that are open weekdays from 9 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. throughout the year.

For a complete list of all service groups within the Welland area, students interested in volunteering can pick up the "Helping Hands" newsletter, available from the Welland Recreation Department at 24 Dorothy St.

Conlon searching Ontario for graduating students

By / DANIELLE MEVILLE
Staff Writer

London, Chatham, Orillia, Owen Sound, Cornwall, Ottawa and Oakville are just a few of the many cities where the College Information Program visits each year.

Randy Conlon, media liaison for Niagara College, travels to these various cities and represents Niagara.

The College Information Program allows other schools and potential students in the province to familiarize themselves with what each community college has to offer.

Twenty-three community colleges along with the Ontario College of Art and Kemptville Agricultural College, are able to participate in the program. It's the individual school's responsibility to allow access to the high schools in their area when the other colleges are visiting.

Discover College Day is a prime example. This past November, Niagara College invited 41 local high schools to the Welland campus while other colleges displayed their information. More than 3,000 potential-college students participated in the day-long event. This combined Niagara's annual open house with the College Information Program.

Conlon is touring over 20 local high schools. He says they are not as successful as the open houses because the turn-out isn't as large.

A recent trip to Centennial High School in Welland saw only a dozen students at the information seminar.

Although the College Information Program is an eight-week tour, Conlon only participated in seven weeks. A trip to the Thunder Bay area did not figure into this year's budget.

Conlon's philosophy while on the tour? "Let's go out and get better students, not that the students here aren't good, let's just go and get better," he says.

His goals throughout the program are to increase the retention rate, fill programs and to graduate more students from the college.

Conlon's job is to go out and talk to students and inform them about Niagara.

"I don't recruit. I don't believe in it. I don't go out and say 'Niagara is the best. Come to Niagara,'" said Conlon.

He says Niagara isn't for every student but encourages people to at least come out to see the campuses and talk to the co-ordinator of their desired program.

The college application process has now reduced options for students when choosing their post-secondary education. It used to be that students could choose and apply to five colleges they wanted to attend. For this September, students will only be able to apply to three colleges.

Therefore, students are now forced to do more research before pencilling in their potential schools.

Conlon has found the college system is not as encouraged by high school guidance counsellors as the university system is at the graduate level of high school.

"I'm attacking our guidance offices and flooding them with information about Niagara and letting them know how viable a college education can be."

Conlon should know, he is a graduate of Niagara College and the Journalism-Print program at the Welland campus. During his days at Niagara, Conlon served as Student Council president and served a year on the Board of Governors. He is currently furthering his education by studying communications at Brock University on a part-time basis.

Conlon says he enjoys his job at Niagara and intends to remain at the school for as long as he can.

"Niagara College is a part of me. It's been really good to me over the years. I'd like to think that I've given something back as well."

Randy Conlon (centre) answers questions about Niagara College with high school students during a recent trip to Centennial High School.

Photo by Danielle Meville

Friendship is the key

By ADELE NAGY
Staff Writer

The recent finding of Antoine de Saint-Exupery's plane in the Mediterranean Sea and waiting in the middle of the night for the airport limousine to pick up my friend, prompted me to write this column.

You may ask what is the connection between the two aforementioned things. The answer is the heart of friendship. I don't believe there has ever been a more profound exposition on the subject than the one contained in Saint-Exupery's *The Little Prince*, a book he wrote one year before he was reported missing-in-action on a reconnaissance mission from Italy to France in the summer of 1944.

In that section of that treatise on the soul of humanity, Saint-Exupery employs a fox to educate the little prince on the rites of friendship. One of the things he tells him is that if he tames him, then they will need each other and he will "love to listen to the wind in the wheat" because the wheat is the color of the hair of the little prince. He talks, in reality, about how friendship can change one's life, one's own consciousness, one's perception of reality.

And this is true for me. The meaning of Spanish words are now imbibed with a special urgency and things related to Honduras and Central America have assumed a new significance.

It is true what the fox has said, what Saint-Exupery told him to say: "On ne voit bien qu'avec le coeur. L'essentiel est invisible pour les yeux. One can only see well with the heart, the essential is invisible for the eyes."

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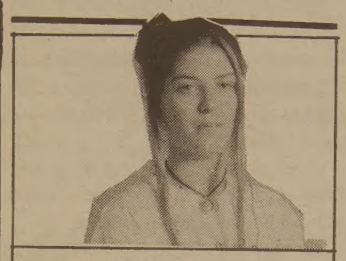
Barkmarket flips bird at traditional grunge



By JENN SHERIDAN
Staff Writer

Brooklyn-based trio **Barkmarket** force feeds its listeners the demon chunks blown by grunge junkies: music too juicy for Seattle. A follow up to independently released 1-800-God-House (1987), The Easy Listening Record (1990) and Vegas Throat (1991), *Gimmick* is **Barkmarket**'s first effort since signing with American Records. Led by engineering wizard Dave Sardy (Chili Peppers, Ice-T, Slayer), **Barkmarket** is a highly experienced studio band that produces some of the grooviest, trashy tunes since pop deformed punk. Wheezing guitars, sounding more like ill sitars, whipping drums, foreign objects and

anguished vocals reek of hostile lust and sarcasm. Whipping Boy will shackle you to a chain gang and drag you through cybernetic-blues country scented by cow patties. Hack It Off flips the bird at MTV and radio cheesy love and hairy-chested

'Demon chunks blown by grunge junkies: music too juicy for Seattle'

songs. Displaying twisted body fragments in their independently shot videos and sleeves with resourceful melodies has found **Barkmarket** gigging with **Bad Brains**, **Prong**, **Therapy**? and **Tad**. While the rest of the riders are falling off the grunge mountain, **Barkmarket** is destined to soar to wavelengths untouched by commercialism. Put on your toque and catch their Toronto show at Lee's Palace, Saturday, Jan. 15.

Nakedness, toads, disco and crude instruments. Boil'er up and you've got **Medicine**'s second release, *The Buried Life*. Riddled with digital manifestations and bizarre whiny strings, *The Buried Life* will appease underground pop enthusiasts. Vocalist Beth Thompson's

chaste whispers echo with pangs of outrage and semi-feminist lyrics. Recording much of the album on an 8-track, while naked in guitarist Brad Laner's bedroom, gives the songs a taunting whiff of reality.

Sensations, ranging from dance-bar ecstasy to Twin Peaks blues to techno salsa, transform *The Buried Life*'s movement with a song-to-song feel. Fried Awake, a pure-pop song, is masked by hundreds of odd guitar sounds while Beneath the Sands experiments with short-wave radio blasts. The album's innovative technical sound twists compensate for the slower-driving tunes.

Credited by **Smashing Pumpkins** and **Curve**, L.A.-based **Medicine** is coming out of the underground with an inventive approach to pop. Whatever your diagnosis, **Medicine** is definitely unique in its class.

Welland feels the 'Majic' of Famous People

By JOHN SARKO
Staff Writer

The Famous People Players brought their internationally acclaimed show to Welland last November. "A Little More Majic" features larger than life puppets done in black light. Feature characters include popular stars like Elvis, Phil Collins and Elton John.

Cast members are considered by the majority of society to be mentally-handicapped adults. Of the group that performed in Welland, eight of the ten performers could be called mentally-handicapped. Director Ron Brown avoids such labels and says we all have handicaps.

Individuals learn confidence building by starting off at lower tasks like setting up and working their way up through the ranks of the company. The experience helps develop a person's self esteem and character through hard work. It takes a team of three people up to four months to get the puppets working.

The troupe completed a United States tour before the recent series of Ontario shows. A second troupe recently performed a week of shows at the Canadian embassy in Washington.

A return to Broadway is being planned. The reviews were raving when The Players were last on Broadway in 1986. Brown sees this as proof that critics appreciate the show and are not patronizing. "On Broadway they (the critics) don't care who you are," says Brown. The Broadway show will feature twenty years of The Players and their dazzling aray of stars and lights.

The million dollar a year operation supports itself through touring and private fundraising. The troupe that came to Welland spent 32 weeks on the road last year.

The Players are establishing a new home on Lisgard Street in Toronto. Sponsored by such stars as Phil Collins and Paul Newman, the companies new home will be open to private parties with gourmet dinners in Newman's Own Kitchen. Special shows will take place in a theater with a sound system designed by Collins.

The Players' relationship with the late pianist Liberace is honored upon entering the new facility through the Liberace doors. These symbolize the doors that Liberace helped open for the company. Upon seeing The Players performance Liberace embraced the troupe and helped put them on the international map. "Liberace was like our godfather. It seems that Phil Collins is stepping into that roll now," says Brown.

Haze clears for all ages

By ROBIN GREEN
Staff Writer

Although the sound is far from original, Montreal band Haze and Shuffle's new release "Get Your Haze" is sure to impress hard rock listeners of all ages.

Bordering on a sound much like a harder version of the band Cheap Trick, this album is jammed full of guitar-driven tunes guaranteed to keep heads banging and long hair flying. The songs are mainly short and fast paced, with even the ballads loaded with loud guitar solos often overpowering all other instruments and voices. These songs flow smoothly, with an excellent combination of sounds making each unique.

"Get Your Haze" is Haze and Shuffle's debut release recorded after a few years of performing at Montreal area clubs. The five members — Daniel Jaques (vocals), Martin Peron (guitar), Fred Neron (guitar), Sabastian Laffite (bass) and Stephan Dumont (drums) — began playing together after moving into an apartment in Montreal as teenagers. Because of their young ages, when they began playing local area clubs, they often had to lie about their ages to be admitted.

Avid hard rock listeners shouldn't bypass this debut album; but rather experience and become familiar with the band and its music, as they will likely hear a lot from them.

Northern Pikes drown with live effort

By ALAN GILDAY
Staff Writer

Ahhhhh! I hate live albums and this one was no exception. Don't get me wrong, I like the Northern Pikes and have seen them live before, but this album just doesn't make it. From the listener's point of view, what can be simpler than recording a band live. Granted, recording engineers have their work cut out for them as they try to weed out all of the extraneous noise that concerts are famous for.

Gig is the latest and last release from Saskatoon's Northern Pikes. Why their record company didn't release a greatest hits compliation instead of a live album is beyond me. The band has certainly had an impressive 10 year career that gave us four albums. I guess their biggest claim to fame was when they

'Come on people, these are the Northern Pikes not the Beatles'

opened along with Duran Duran on Bowie's Glass Spider Tour. Back then, they were a new band, riding on the success of their hit single, "Teenland".

Not only is this album a disappointment because it's live, but Semko's vocals are strained and the crowd noise is so loud that it practically drowns him out. Come on, people, these are the Northern Pikes, not the Beatles.

The song choice is also a problem. They included very few from their *Snow in June* album and only one song from *Neptune*, their last release.

"The band is on an indefinite hiatus," a press release stated. It's too bad that the band lost the commercial edge that served them so well on their *Snow in June* album.

Community makeup reflected in Board of Governors

By STEPHEN KRICK
Staff Writer

Niagara College's Board of Governors does reflect the make up of the community, says college President John Saso.

"Finding talented people who reflect the community and at the same time help in achieving the mission statement will not be a problem," he says. "Right now I think the board has a nice balance."

Ontario Education and Training Minister Dave Cooke, in a letter dated last October, announced an initiative aimed at helping college and university boards become more representative of the communities they serve.

In the college system, the Ontario Council of Regents — which appoints all college board members based on nominations from the colleges — will continue to ensure that with each appointment, significant efforts are made to search for community-based candidates from groups that traditionally have been under-represented on boards, such as visible minorities, women, persons with disabilities, francophones, and aboriginal people.

Saso says the letter was aimed more at university boards in an attempt to get them in line with college boards.

"I think the initiative makes a lot of sense," he says. "And I think we have to ensure that everyone gets a fair shot and go that extra mile to make sure. Yet we must do it in an equitable way so as to not negatively affect other groups."

Saso says the college board represents the native community, the disabled, and women. He says the college will have to go through demographics of the area to see what other groups need to be added to the board to help make the board more reflective of the community.

Hockey Knights loss to Conestoga, best game yet- Bassi

By STUART MCDONALD
Staff Writer

The Niagara Knights hockey team lost both their December games, moving to a record of three wins and three losses. However, the team's record is a big improvement over last year's 0-5-1 start.

Niagara lost to Sudbury's Cambrian College 8-5 at the Welland arena on Dec. 4 and to Conestoga College 6-3 in Kitchener on Dec. 8.

But despite the two defeats, Niagara coach Fred Bassi said the loss to Conestoga was the team's best game of the year.

"They (Conestoga) jumped into a 3-0 lead but we never quit," said Bassi. "By the end of the second it was 3-2. We were playing well defensively. Goalie Rob LeMaitre played the best game in the two years I've had him. In the third, John Anger scored about three minutes into the period on a beautiful slapshot," he said.

With the score 3-3, Bassi said Niagara "messed up" in their own end and allowed a fourth goal. "It was one of our few mistakes," he said.

Bassi said Conestoga's fifth goal was scored on a lead pass to a player just getting out of the penalty box who then scored on a breakaway. Conestoga's sixth goal was scored into an empty net. Anger, Jason Buote and Pete Lachance scored Niagara's three goals.

Niagara allowed three goals in a 53-second span in the second period, which was the margin of victory for Cambrian College's 8-5 win.

After the game, Bassi was critical of some of his players. "We're not as physical as we should be in certain situations," he said. "We've got some guys that can do it but other guys that don't. To win games in our division we have got to play a tougher game."

The two losses move Niagara into last place in the Costello division, however, Niagara has a better winning percentage than three out of four teams in the Parker division.

Most Canadians live paycheque to paycheque

By ALAN GILDAY
Staff Writer

"Ninety per cent of Canadians live from paycheque to paycheque and it's all because of the law of ignorance," says Gary Raser of the Givens Foundation.

Raser was in St. Catharines recently to promote the Charles J. Givens program, which can be seen on television through 30-minute infommercials.

The law of ignorance which Raser refers to, is the ignorance which causes many people to make "unwise" financial decisions. The most common mistake people make is failing to plan properly for their retirement, he said. "People spend more time planning a two-week vacation than they do their retirement."

Raser also described how banks try to intimidate people when they go in for a loan. "Banks will make you feel that you are extremely lucky to get a loan," he said. "Most people take out mortgages for a 25-year period. It's the worst thing that you can ever do," Raser said. By way of example, Raser showed how a person who takes out a $100,000, 25-year mortgage at 10 per cent will end up paying the bank, $270,000. But if the mortgage is taken out for 15 years, the payments will increase by 15 to 18 per cent, but the person will only pay the bank $190,000, representing a savings of $80,000.

Raser went on to describe how savings could be made by establishing a home-based business, and investing in no-load mutual funds. Surprisingly, government tax regulations allow each person to make an one-time $8,000 overpayment with regards to RRSP contributions. Also with a home-based business, one only has to have a reasonable expectation of profit in order to qualify for all of the deductions available to businesses. "One man in Florida was living from paycheque to paycheque and wasn't able to save or invest any money. I asked him what he did in his spare time on the weekends. He said that he liked going fishing on his boat with his friends. I suggested that he take out one additional fisherman for $150 per day. He now makes an additional $600 per month, and he qualifies for all of the available business deductions," Raser said.

The course and the materials cover several other financial strategies that are designed specifically for Canadians, and costs $998, which is tax deductible.

One area where people can save money is with life and auto insurance. "If you get into a car accident and the damage is $300, and your deductible is $250, chances are, you aren't going to report it to your insurance company because you're afraid that your rates will go up. If the damage is less than $400, your rates will go up anyway because each claim costs the insurance company $400 to process," Raser said.

He added by raising your deductible to $500, people can cut their auto insurance premium by 40 per cent.

Basketball blues

By LEANN MCHUTCHION
Staff Writer

Niagara College's Knights basketball team seem to be fighting a losing battle this season.

The Knights have been defeated in all four games they have played since their Dec. 8 loss of 109-74 to Humber College.

In a tournament played Dec. 8, the Knights were defeated 95-64 by the Loyalist Lancers and 83-78 by Hamilton's Mohawk College.

The Knights were again beat 86-83 in lead play Jan. 11 at Mohawk.

The next home game for Niagara will be Jan. 20 in the gym at the Welland campus.

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Semi-formal S.A.C.'d

By GREG FURMINGER
Staff Writer

A lack of ticket sales resulted in the cancellation of last month's Christmas semi-formal presented by the Student Administrative Council.

SAC president Cris Margeson said he believed a good time would not be had by such a small crowd.

"We thought it would be ridiculously embarrassing to have so few people there," said Margeson.

Only 26 of 200 tickets were sold when SAC decided to cancel, resulting in a loss of $433.

The event — which included dinner and dancing — was to be held at Niagara Falls Golf Club on Dec. 10. Ticket prices were $25 a person or $45 a couple.

Vice-president social Jeremy Lowe attributes the cancellation to a lack of school spirit.